

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 236

By Hood

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Kristy Mall upon her selection as Tennessee Teacher of the Year for Murfreesboro City Schools in the fifth through sixth grade division.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to specially recognize those outstanding teachers who have devoted their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Kristy Mall is one such estimable educator who has distinguished herself as a professional of the greatest dedication, ability, and integrity; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Mall has recently been selected as Teacher of the Year for Murfreesboro City Schools in the fifth through sixth grade division, an honor most befitting her outstanding tenure as a teacher, as it recognizes that positive influence she has had on so many young lives; and

WHEREAS, Kristy Mall received her bachelor's and master's degrees from Middle Tennessee State University, and she is a 2001 graduate of the MTSU Jones Foundation Academy for Teachers of the Gifted; and

WHEREAS, since 2005, Mrs. Mall has taught sixth grade language arts and science at Bellwood Discovery School, a public school for high achieving and gifted students in the Murfreesboro City Schools; and

WHEREAS, prior to her employment at Bellwood, Kristy Mall taught sixth grade language arts and social studies for eleven years at Cason Lane Academy, a school based on the Paideia Methodology; during her tenure at Cason Lane, she presented the Paideia concept at several national conferences; and

WHEREAS, an able leader and a consummate professional, Kristy Mall is a member of a number of professional associations and memberships, including the National Association for

Gifted Children, Tennessee Association for the Gifted, Autism Society of America, Autism Society of Middle Tennessee, National Council of Teachers of English, Murfreesboro Education Association, Tennessee Education Association, and National Education Association; and

WHEREAS, no stranger to accolades, the distinguished Mrs. Mall has been the recipient of numerous awards and recognitions, including being listed in *Who's Who Among American Teachers*, recognition by the Eisenhower Foundation and Junior National Young Leaders as a local representative for students chosen to attend the National Youth Leadership Conferences; she has also received the Poetic Achievement Award from Creative Communications, is the author of a sixth grade language arts textbook nearing publication, and is a Disney Teacher of the Year multiple award nominee; and

WHEREAS, Kristy Mall tenaciously strives to be the voice for children, especially in their time of need, and she tirelessly advocates for their rights and protection; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Mall was instrumental in helping to pass both the Autism Equity Act and the Combating Autism Act in 2006, which help provide the funding and research needed for autistic children; she also solicits funding for Beyond the Limits, a nonprofit group that offers grants to defray the costs of autism treatment; and

WHEREAS, a volunteer with the Child Advocacy Center in Murfreesboro since 2003, Kristy Mall grew increasingly disturbed by what she saw as the lack of protection of children from predators; she campaigned the Tennessee State Senate for the rights of children and improvement to the Department of Children's Services, which led to The Perform Act in 2006; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Mall actively supports the Vanderbilt Children's Hospital, the American Heart Association, and Project HELP (Help Educate Little People) at MTSU, and she has spearheaded fundraising efforts to support the Children's Miracle Network and Gallaudet University, a university for deaf and hard-of-hearing students; and

WHEREAS, she has lent her talents as a volunteer to help build Kid's Castle community playground in 1994, and she has coached the Murfreesboro Soccer Club since 2003; and

WHEREAS, Kristy Mall has passed along her spirit of volunteerism and activism to her students; as a whole, her classes have adopted local needy families, donated books and money to Hurricane Katrina victims, and since 1994, saved more than sixteen acres of the rainforest in Africa; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Mall is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who works assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as citizens; and

WHEREAS, Kristy Mall truly serves as an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, and her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Mall truly epitomizes the ideal of the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and congratulate Kristy Mall upon being chosen as Tennessee Teacher of the Year for Murfreesboro City Schools in the fifth through sixth grade division, commend her exceptional service to the children of Tennessee, salute her professional expertise and personal excellence, and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

BE IF FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.